



STATISTICS FROM
THE FINNISH CENTRE FOR PENSIONS



Statistical Yearbook of Pensioners in Finland 2019

Finnish Centre for Pensions
The Social Insurance Institution of Finland
Official Statistics of Finland
Social Protection 2020

The Finnish statutory pension system consists of the statutory earnings-related pension, the national pension and the guarantee pension. In addition to these, pensions are paid under the following acts: the Motor Liability Insurance Act, the Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, the Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses, the Act on Compensation for Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses in Crisis Management Duties, and the Military Injuries Act.

This publication covers all recipients of a pension from the national and the earnings-related pension scheme. The national pension scheme covers all persons who are permanently resident in Finland. The earnings-related pension scheme covers all workers and self-employed persons whose gainful employment exceeds the minimum requirements laid down by law. [Description of the pension system.](#)



Finnish Centre for Pensions
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The publication is edited by Heidi Nyman from Finnish Centre for Pensions.

ISSN 1796-0479

Official Statistics of Finland

ISSN 2343-3558

Statistics from the Finnish Centre for Pensions

ISSN 2670-031X

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Photos: Gettyimages

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All pension recipients

Pension recipients numbered 1.6 million in 2019

At year-end 2019, pensions were paid in Finland to 1,612,000 persons. Of them, 886,000 (55%) were women and 726,000 (45%) men.

Of the total number of pension recipients, 1,556,000 resided in Finland. Hence 28 per cent of the Finnish population received either a pension in one's own right or a survivors' pension, or both. A total of 57,000 pension recipients resided abroad.



1,612,000

PENSION RECIPIENTS

1,556,000

PENSION RECIPIENTS
RESIDENT
IN FINLAND

28%

OF POPULATION
RECEIVED
A PENSION

More than one million received only an earnings-related pension

In 2019, the number of persons receiving a pension from the earnings-related pension system only exceeded one million (1,006,00) for the first time. They accounted for 62 per cent of all pension recipients. Of the total number of men, 70 per cent received only an earnings-related pension; of women, 56 per cent.

Of all pension recipients, 32 per cent received both an earnings-related and a national pension (24% of the men and 38% of the women). National pensions only were paid to 6 per cent of both men and women.

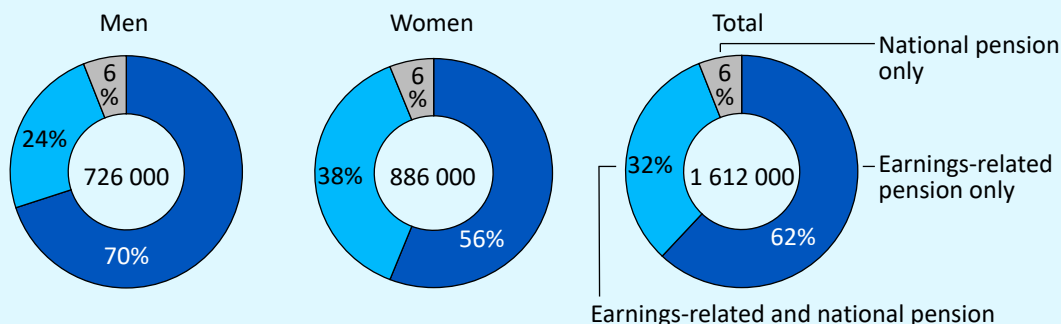
Many of the younger pension recipients receive only a national pension

At year-end 2019, nearly 90 per cent of the 20–29-year-old and three fifths (62%) of the 30–39-year-old pension recipients received a national pension only. Also in the age group 40–49-year-olds, the share of recipients of only a national pension was highest (38%). In this age group, 35 per cent received both an earnings-related and a national pension while 27 per cent received only an earnings-related pension.



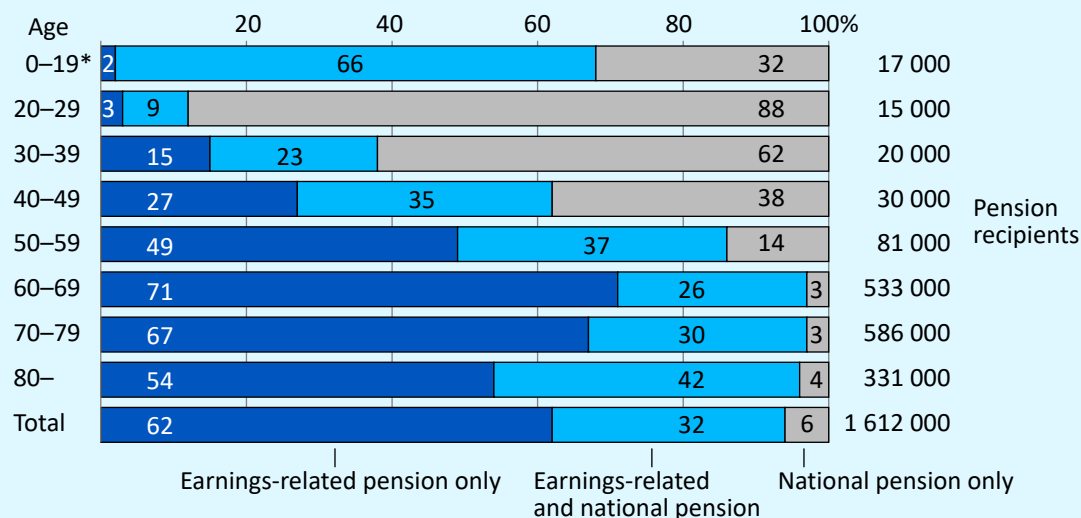
In 2019, the number of persons receiving a pension from the earnings-related pension system only exceeded one million for the first time.

All pension recipients by pension system and gender at 31 Dec. 2019*



*In addition to earnings-related and national pensions, 107,000 persons received a guarantee pension. Around 3,000 persons received only a guarantee pension. They are not included in the figures of this publication.

All pension recipients by pension system and age at 31 Dec. 2019



*The majority in this age group received an orphan's pension.

[Data in statistical database](#)

In the age group 50 and over, the share of persons receiving only a national pension dropped steeply and was around 3 per cent among the over-60-year-olds. On the other hand, the share of persons receiving only an earnings-related pension grew. Among the 50–59-year-olds, the share was around half, among the 60–69-year-olds more than two thirds (71%) and among the 70–79-year-olds two thirds (67%). The share of persons receiving only an earnings-related pension among the over-80-year-olds reduced but was still an ample half (54%).

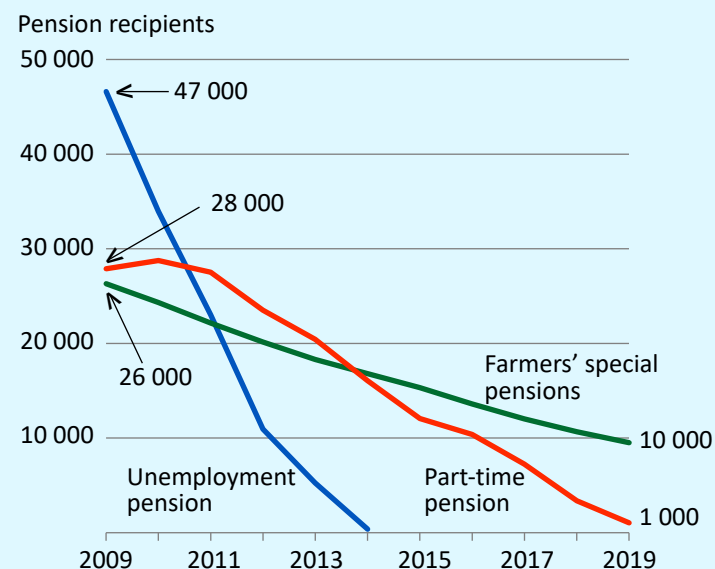
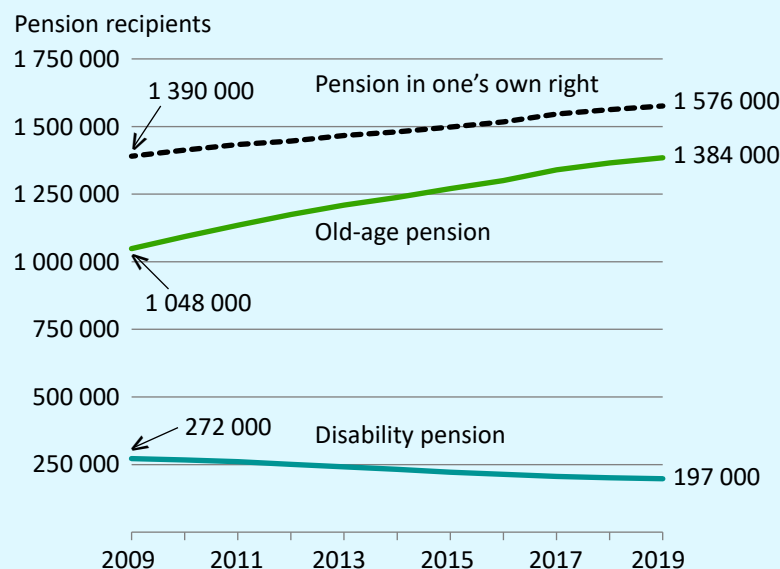
Number of recipients of pensions in one's own right has grown by 190,000 in one decade

At the end of 2019, pension recipients receiving a pension in one's own right numbered 1,576,000. This figure includes all recipients of old-age, disability, part-time and farmers' special pensions. In 2009, persons receiving a pension in one's own right numbered 1,390,000, which means a growth of 13 per cent (186,000 persons) in a decade. The growth is due to the growing number of persons receiving an old-age pension since the number of recipients of other pensions received in one's own right has decreased.

Old-age pension recipients numbered 1,384,000

The number of old-age pension recipients has grown by one third (336,000) in a decade. At year-end 2019, nearly 90 per cent (1,384,000 persons) of all recipients of a pension in one's own right received an old-age pension. Disability pension recipients numbered 197,000 while special farmers' pensions were received by 10,000 persons and part-time pensions by 1,000 persons.

Persons receiving a pension in one's own right in 2009–2019 by pension benefit



[Data in statistical database](#)

In the last decade, the number of disability pension recipients has decreased by 75,000, part-time pension recipients by 27,000 and farmers' special pensions' recipients by 17,000 persons. In 2009, a total of 47,000 persons received an unemployment pension. The unemployment pension has since been abolished; the last unemployment pensions were paid out in 2014. The payment of part-time pensions will also come to an end in a few years. The benefit was replaced by the partial old-age pension introduced in connection with the [2017 pension reform](#). At year-end 2019, a total of 25,000 persons received a partial old-age pension.

Survivors' pensions were paid out to 249,000 widows/widowers and 16,000 children in 2019. The number of recipients of the surviving spouse's pension has decreased by 15,000 and the number of recipients of the orphan's pension by 7,000 persons in 10 years.

A total of 1,612,000 persons received an earnings-related pension at year-end 2019. In 2009, the figure was 1,443,000, which means that the total number of pension recipients has grown by 169,000 persons (12%) in 10 years.



A total of 1,612,000 persons received an earnings-related pension at year-end 2019.

The total number of pension recipients has grown by 169,000 persons (12%) in 10 years.



Pension recipients residing in Finland

At year-end 2019 around 1,556,000 (96%) of all pension recipients resided in Finland. Of them, 852,000 (55%) were women and 703,000 (45%) men.

Of those residing in Finland, 1,521,000 received a pension in their own right and 260,000 a survivors' pension. A total of 225,000 received both a pension in one's own right and a survivors' pension.



1,521,000

RECIPIENTS OF A PENSION
IN ONE'S OWN RIGHT
RESIDING IN FINLAND

260,000

SURVIVORS' PENSION
RECIPIENTS RESIDING
IN FINLAND

Recipients of pensions in one's own right

Women in the majority in all other pension benefits but the disability pension

When viewed by pension benefits, the share of women was higher in 2019 for all other benefits than disability pensions, for which the share of men and women were equally high.

Of the total number of old-age pension recipients, 55 per cent were women; of the recipients of farmers' special pensions, two thirds (68%) and of the part-time pension recipients nearly three fifths (57%) were women.

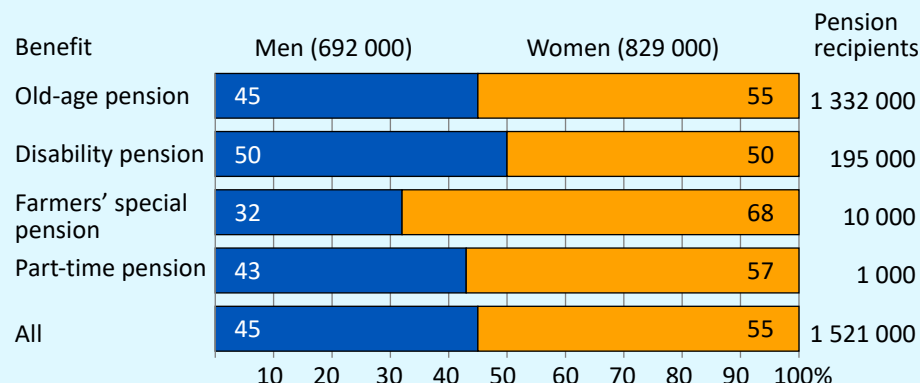
Four fifths of pension recipients 65 years or older

Of all persons receiving a pension in one's own right, four fifths (1,219,000) had turned 65 years and one fifth were under 65 years (302,000). The largest groups of recipients of a pension in one's own right were the 65–69-year-olds and the 70–74-year-olds, both with around 350,000 persons.

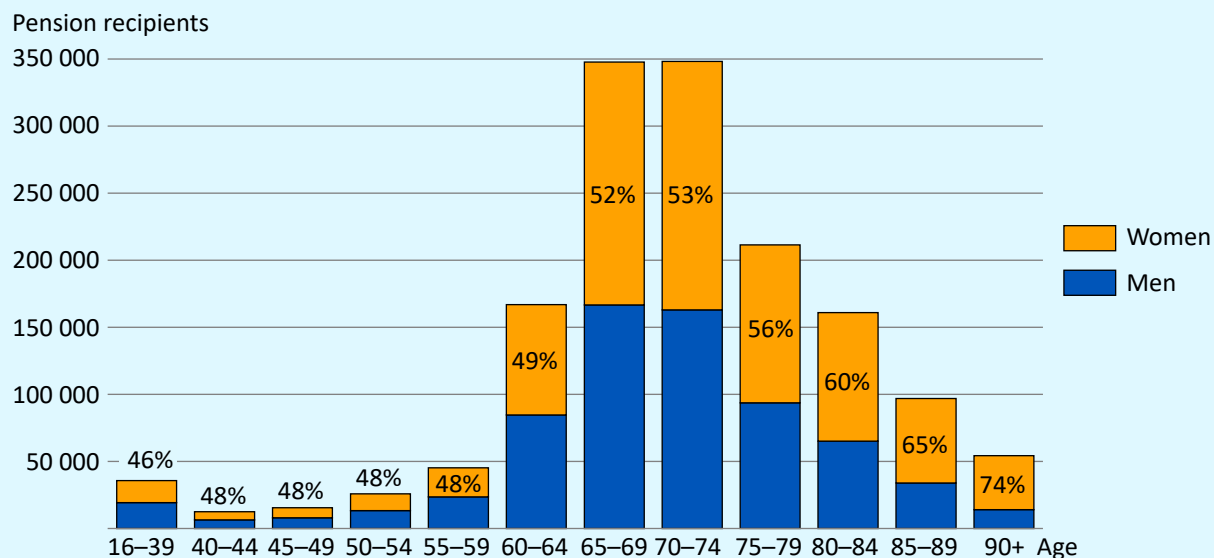
The share of male recipients of pensions received in one's own right was higher in all age groups below 65 years. Of the under-40-year-old pension recipients, the share of men was 54 per cent while in the age group 40–59-year-olds, the share of men was around 52 per cent.

Among the over-65-year-old pension recipients, women were in the majority, and their share grew the older the age group. Of the 65–79-year-old pension recipients, women counted for an ample half. In the age group 80–89-year-olds, more than three fifths (62%) were women, and three quarters (74%) of pension recipients aged 90 and over were women.

Recipients of pensions in one's own right by benefit and gender at 31 Dec. 2019



Recipients of pensions in one's own right by age and gender at 31 Dec. 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

Population share of recipients of pensions received in one's own right

More than 33 per cent of the population aged 16 or over received a pension in one's own right in 2019. The share has grown steadily as the population has aged. In 2009, the corresponding ratio was 30 per cent.

Population share of pension recipients in age group under 65-year-olds decreased

The growing population share of recipients of pensions received in one's own right has grown because the share of over-65-year-old pension recipients has grown: by 320,000 persons in a decade. In the age groups under 65, the number of recipients of pensions in one's own right has reduced (see page 5).

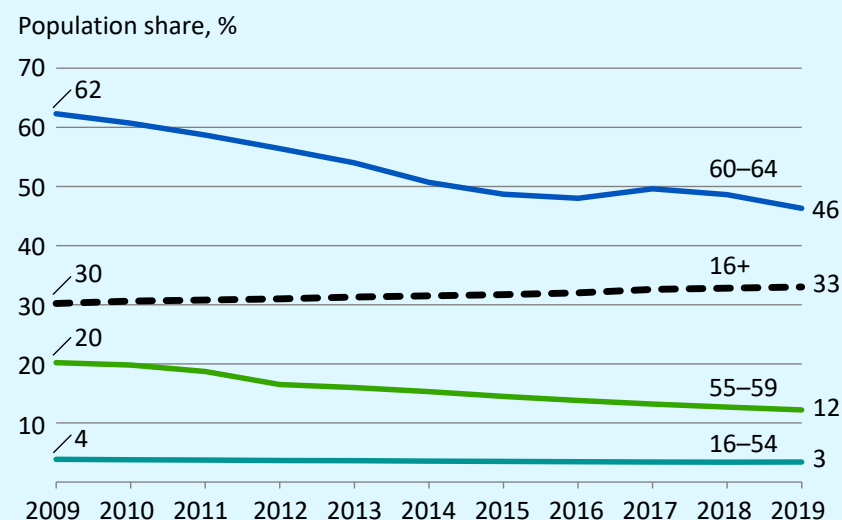
The share of persons receiving a pension in one's own right in the age group 60–64-year-olds has dropped from 62 to 46 per cent and in the age group 55–59-year-olds from 20 to 12 per cent. The population share of persons aged 16–54 years and receiving a pension in one's own right has reduced only slightly and was 3 per cent in 2019.

Population share smallest in Uusimaa and largest in South Savo in 2019

When reviewed by municipality, the share of the population that was 16 years or older and received a pension in one's own right in 2019 was smallest in Uusimaa (26%), the Åland Islands (31%) Pirkanmaa (32%) and North Ostrobothnia (32%).

The largest population shares were in South Savo (44%), Kainuu (43%) and Kymenlaakso (41%).

Share of population aged 16 and over who received a pension in one's own right in 2009–2019



Recipients of pensions in one's own right by region at 31 Dec. 2019

| Region | Pension recipients | Population share, % | Region | Pension recipients | Population share, % |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Uusimaa | 362 000 | 26 | North Karelia | 53 000 | 39 |
| Southwest Finland | 137 000 | 34 | Central Finland | 80 000 | 35 |
| Satakunta | 72 000 | 39 | South Ostrobothnia | 60 000 | 38 |
| Kanta-Häme | 53 000 | 37 | Ostrobothnia | 50 000 | 34 |
| Pirkanmaa | 138 000 | 32 | Central Ostrobothnia | 20 000 | 36 |
| Päijät-Häme | 64 000 | 38 | North Ostrobothnia | 106 000 | 32 |
| Kymenlaakso | 59 000 | 41 | Kainuu | 26 000 | 43 |
| South Karelia | 43 000 | 39 | Lapland | 57 000 | 39 |
| South Savo | 79 000 | 44 | Åland Islands | 8 000 | 31 |
| North Savo | 79 000 | 38 | Whole Finland | 1 521 000 | 33 |

[Data in statistical database](#)

Old-age pension recipients

Old-age pension recipients residing in Finland numbered 1,332,000 at year-end 2019. Of them, 736,000 (55%) were women and 596,000 (45%) were men. Of all old-age pension recipients, a total of 24,000 persons received a partial old-age pension.

More than half of the old-age pension recipients were under 73 years

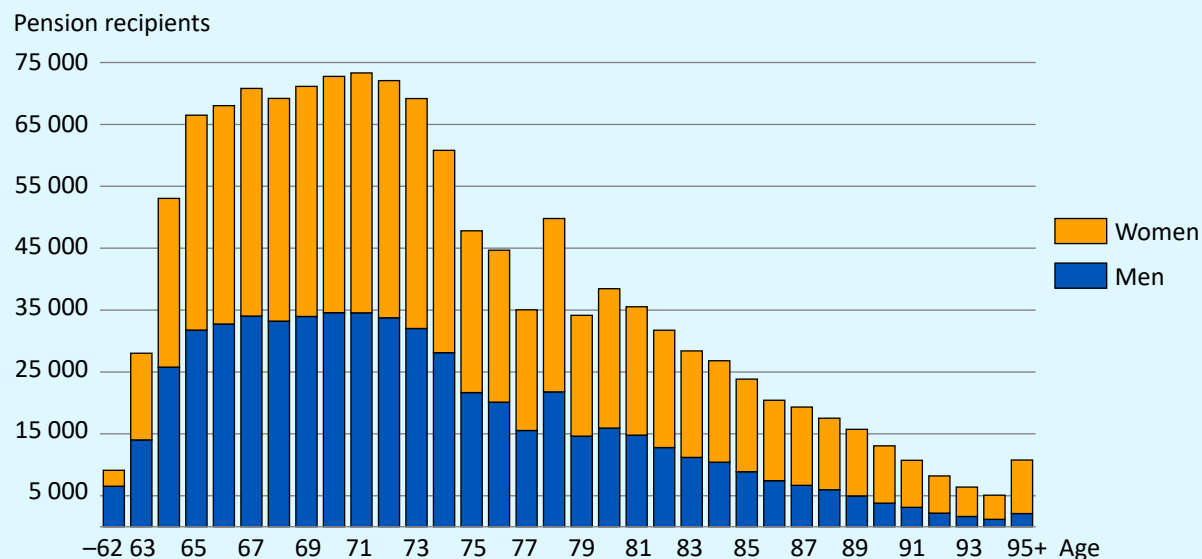
Of the old-age pension recipients (excl. the partial old-age pension recipients), the under 73-year-olds numbered 654,000, that is, half of all. The largest one-year age groups were the 67-, 69-, 70-, 71- and 72-year-olds, all of which included more than 70,000 old-age pension recipients. Around one fourth (26%) of the old-age pension recipients were aged 73–79 years. Hence 75 per cent of the recipients of an old-age pension were under 80 years old in 2019 while 20 per cent were aged 80–89 and 4 per cent over 90.

The majority of partial old-age pension recipients has drawn half of their accrued pension

From the beginning of 2017, it has been possible to retire on an [earnings-related partial old-age pension](#). The amount of partial old-age pension is 25 or 50 per cent (based on the individual's own choice) of the earnings-related pension accrued at the time of retirement.

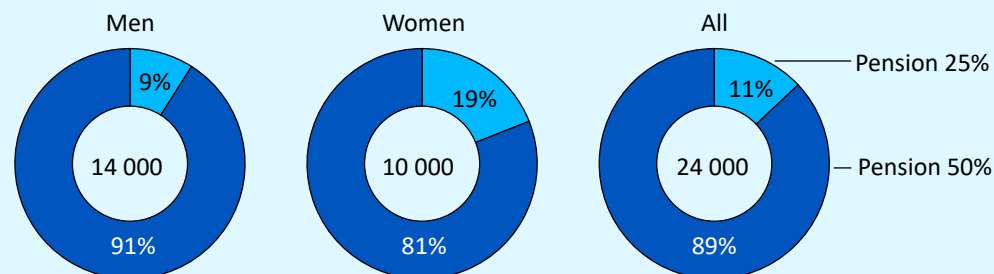
At year-end 2019, a total of 14,000 men and 10,000 women received a partial old-age pension. 91 per cent of the men and 81 per cent of the women had taken out 50 per cent of their accrued pension.

Old-age pension recipients by age and gender at 31 Dec. 2019



The figure does not include partial old-age pensions.

Partial old-age pension recipients by gender at 31 Dec. 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

Disability pension recipients

Number of disability pension recipients dropped by more than 25 per cent in a decade

In 2019, the number of disability pension recipients residing in Finland was 195,000. This is 68,000 less than in 2009, when disability pensions were paid to 263,000 persons residing in Finland. The number of disability pension recipients has thus declined by 26 per cent in a decade.

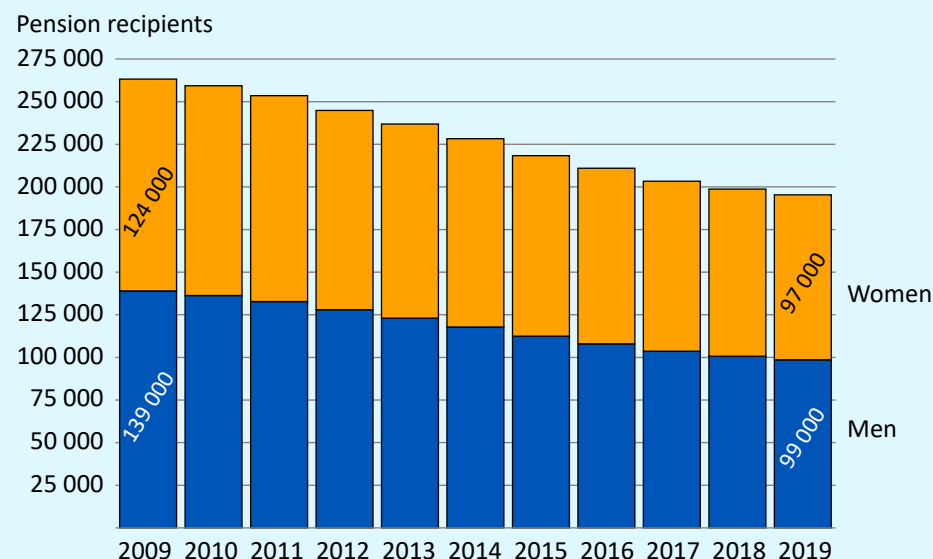
The number of disability pension recipients has declined among both men and women. Among men, the decline is higher, around 29 per cent (or 40,000 persons), while it is slightly less among women, around 22 per cent (or 28,000 persons). At year-end 2019, a total of 99,000 men and 97,000 women received an earnings-related disability pension.

One third of the disability pension recipients have turned 60

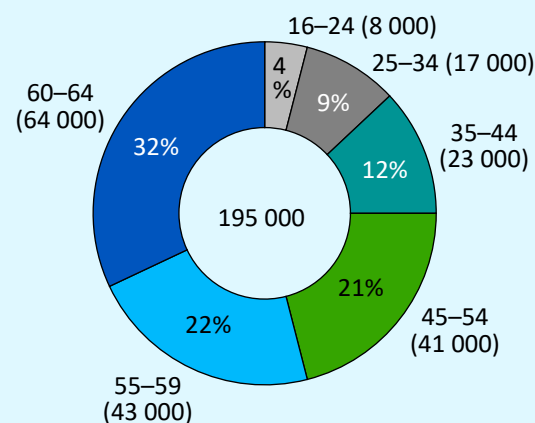
More than 50 per cent of all disability pension recipients were 55–64 years old in 2019. Around 30 per cent were 60–64 years old and 22 per cent 55–59 years old. Young, under 35-year-old disability pension recipients counted for 13 per cent of all disability pension recipients.



Disability pension recipients by gender in 2009–2019



Disability pension recipients by age at 31 Dec. 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

Mental and behavioural disorders the cause of disability for more than half

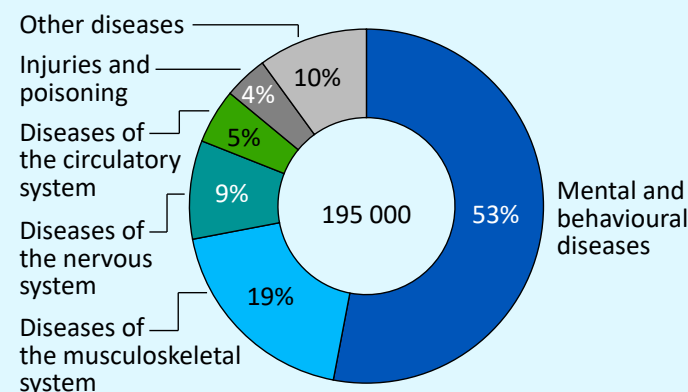
Of the disability pension recipients, more than half (52% or 103,000 persons) suffered from mental and behavioural disorders. The share was equally high for men and women. The second-largest cause for disability were musculoskeletal diseases, based on which 37,000 persons (19%) received a pension. Women suffered slightly more (21%) from musculoskeletal diseases than men (16%). All other main disease categories counted for less than 10 per cent each.

Depression the main cause of retirement on a disability pension

At year-end 2019, a total of 103,000 persons received a disability pension due to mental disorders. Nearly one third (30%) of them suffered from depression and one quarter from schizophrenia. Roughly 38 per cent of the women and 22 per cent of the men were diagnosed with depression. Schizophrenia was the main mental disorder for men (30%).

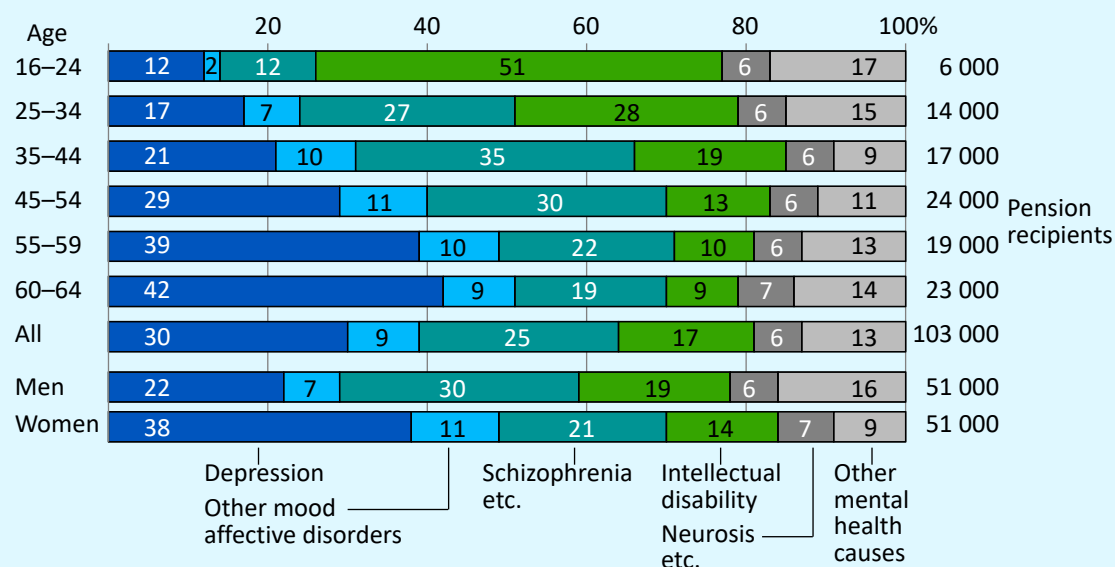
Depression is more often the case for disability the older the pension recipient is. Its share of all mental disorders among the 55–64-year-olds was around two fifths. Among the 45–54-year-olds, depression was the cause for disability in 29 per cent of the cases and schizophrenia in 30 per cent of the disability pensions caused by mental disorders. In the younger age groups, the share of depression decreased and the share of schizophrenia increased, as did intellectual disability.

Recipients of disability pensions by main disease category at 31 Dec. 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

Disability pension recipients receiving a disability pension based on mental and behavioural disorders by age and diagnosis at 31 Dec. 2019





Survivors' pension recipients

Survivors' pensions were paid out to 244,000 widows/widowers and 16,000 children at year-end 2019. Surviving spouse's pension was paid to 204,000 women and 40,000 men.

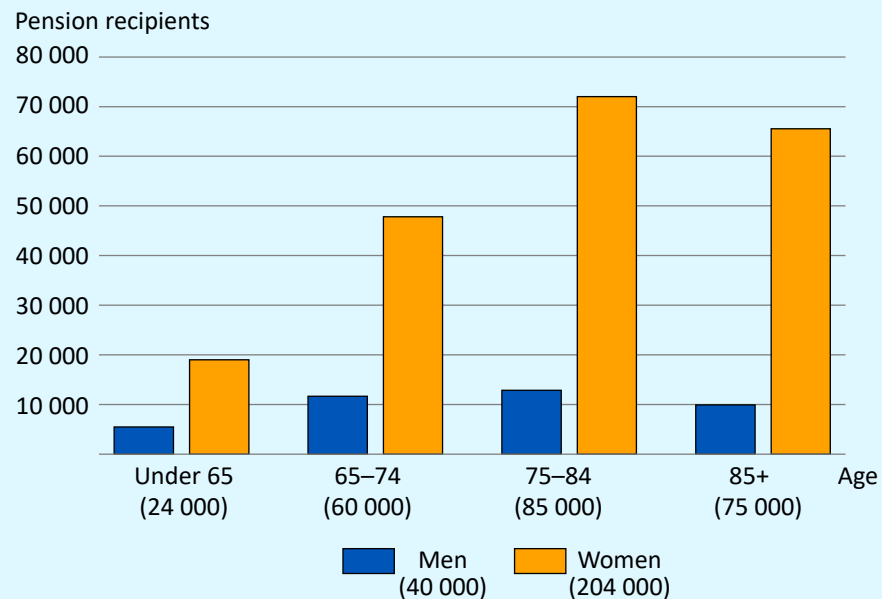
Surviving spouse's pension recipients are old

The majority of surviving spouse's pension recipients is already older. Two thirds of them had turned 75. The share of 75–84-year-old surviving spouses was 35 per cent and the share of older

surviving spouses was 31 per cent. Approximately every tenth surviving spouse's pension recipient was under the age of 65 in 2019.

The number of female recipients of the surviving spouse's pension peaked in 2005 at 225,000. Since then, the number has decreased each year. On the other hand, the number of men receiving a surviving spouse's pension has grown each year, but very slowly.

Surviving spouse' pension recipients by age and gender at 31 Dec. 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

Total pension

The total pension consists of an individual's pension in one's own right and any survivors' pension, guarantee pension, front veterans' supplements and child increases. The total pension is a gross pension.

Total pension of recipients receiving a pension in one's own right in 2019

The average gross monthly total pension in 2019 was 1,716 euros and the median pension 1,497 euros. The figure does not include recipients of the partial old-age pension or the part-time pension.

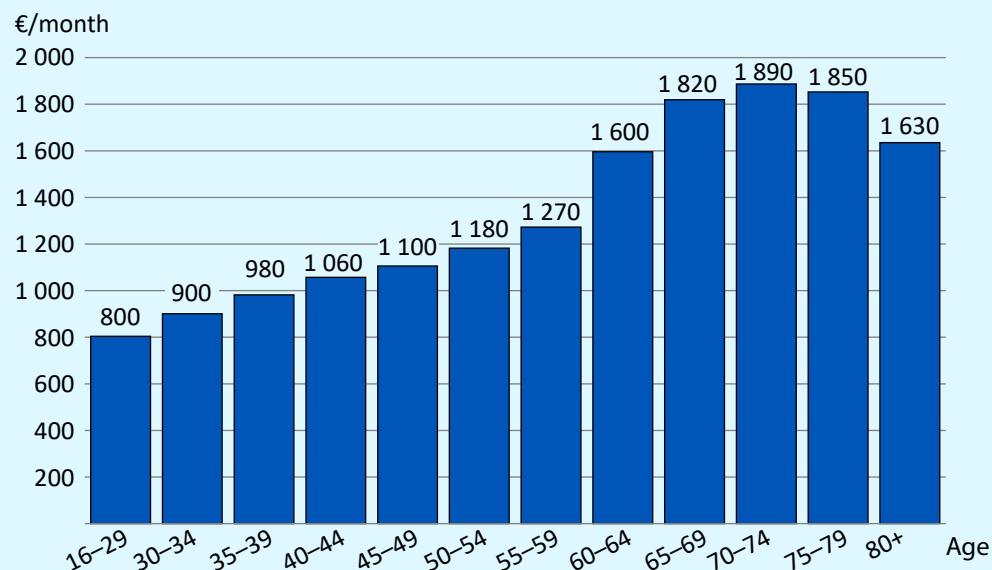
The average monthly total pension in the age group under 55 years was 800 –1,200 euros

The average total pension of persons receiving a pension in one's own right usually increases by age since the groups include persons who may have accrued an earnings-related pension for a longer time than those who have retired on a disability pension at a young age.

In 2019, the average gross monthly total pension for the under-30-year-olds was around 800 euros. In the following 5-year-age-groups, the average monthly pension rose by slightly less than 100 euros. Thus, for 50–54-year-olds, the average monthly pension was just under 1,200 euros.

The 55–59-year-olds received an average disability pension of 1,300 euros. Among the 60–64-year-olds who received a pension in one's own right include a great number of people who have already retired on an old-age pension, leading to a clearly

Average total pension of persons receiving a pension in one's own right by age group at 31 Dec. 2019



The figures do not include recipients of partial old-age or part-time pensions.

[Data in statistical database](#)

higher average monthly pension (1,600 euros) than in the previous age group.

Highest average pension paid to 70–74-year-olds

An average total monthly pension of more than 1,800 euros was paid to three age groups. It was highest for the 70–74-year-olds, nearly 1,900 euros per month. The average monthly pension in the age group 75–79-year-olds was around 1,850 euros and in the age group 65–69-year-olds 1,820 euros. The average monthly pension in the age group over-80-year-olds was 1,640 euros.



In 2019, the average gross monthly total pension received in one's own right was 1,716 euros and the median pension 1,497 euros.

Average old-age pension of women 77 per cent of men's

The average monthly total old-age pension in 2019 was 1,801 euros. The figure does not include partial old-age pensions. The average monthly old-age pension was 2,058 euros for men and 1,594 euros for women. That means a gender gap of 460 euros; women's pension amounted to 77 per cent of men's pension.

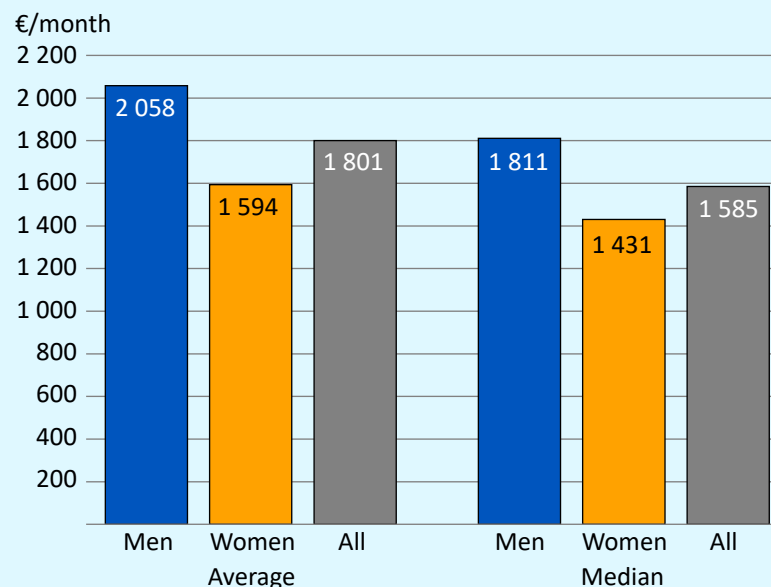
The median total monthly pension of old-age pension recipients in 2019 was 1,585 euros. The median monthly pension for men was 1,811 euros and for women 1,431 euros. Thus, the median pension for men was 380 euros higher than that for women.

Gender gap smaller in disability pensions than in old-age pensions

In 2019, the average monthly total pension of disability pension recipients was 1,127 euros and their median monthly pension was 919 euros.

The gender gap in the average and median disability pension was clearly smaller than that of the average and median old-age pension. The average monthly pension of men was 1,196 euros and of women 1,056 euros. That means a gender gap of 140 euros; women's disability pension amounted to 88 per cent of men's. The average median monthly disability pension of men was 946 euros and of women 895 euros. The gender gap in median pensions was 50 euros.

Total pension of old-age pension recipients at 31 Dec. 2019



The figures do not include recipients of the partial old-age pension.

[Data in statistical database \(average pension\)](#)

[Data in statistical database \(median pension\)](#)



€1,801

**AVERAGE MONTHLY TOTAL
OLD-AGE PENSION**



€460

**GENDER GAP
IN AVERAGE MONTHLY
OLD-AGE PENSIONS**

Distribution of total pension more even for men than for women

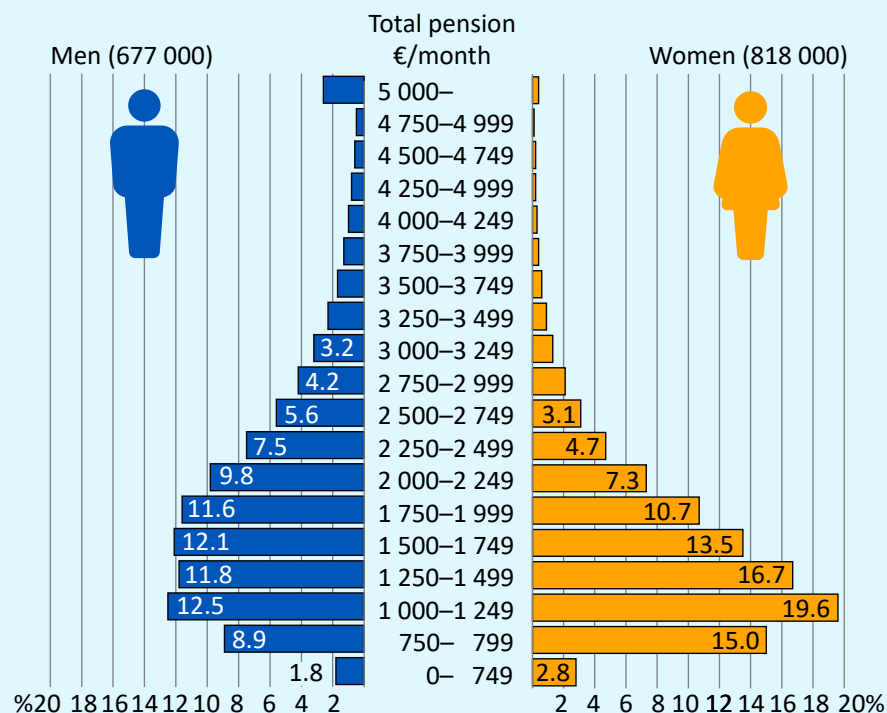
The size distribution of the total pension received in one's own right is more even among men than women. The total pensions of women centre more at the lower end of the distribution than do those of men.

In 2019, an ample half (55%) of the women and one third (35%) of the men received a total monthly old-age pension under 1,500 euros. More than three quarters (78%) of the women and three fifths (60%) of the men received a monthly pension less than 2,000 euros. Three quarters (76%) of the men and nine out of ten (92%) of the women received a total monthly pension of less than 2,500 euros.

A total monthly pension of more than 2,500 euros was paid to one fourth of the men and one tenth of the women who received an old-age pension. A monthly total old-age pension of more than 5,000 euros were paid to 15,000 men (2.6%) and 2,900 women (0.4%).

A small group of old-age pension recipients received a total pension of less than 750 euros. This group includes pension recipients who get a pension also from abroad. Such pensions are not included in the total pension, which includes only pensions paid out in Finland. Another reason for the low pension is that it has been taken out early, which permanently reduces the monthly old-age pension.

Distribution of total pension of old-age pensions by gender at 31 Dec. 2019



The figures do not include recipients of the partial old-age pension.

[Data in statistical database](#)

Survivors' pension

Men's average surviving spouse's pension around one third of women's

In 2019, the average survivors' pension of all surviving spouses was 585 euros a month. The average monthly surviving spouse's pension for women was 654 euros and for men 231 euros.

Thus, men's average surviving spouse's pension was around one third (35%) of women's. The average monthly orphan's pension of all children receiving the pension in 2019 was 420 euros.



Pension recipients residing abroad

Four per cent of all pension recipients reside abroad

At year-end 2019, pensions were paid out from Finland to 57,000 persons residing abroad. This represents some 4 per cent of all persons receiving a pension from Finland. An ample half (54%) of the pension recipients residing abroad were Finnish citizens.

Majority received old-age pensions

In 2019, more than 90 per cent (52,400) of the pension recipients residing abroad received an old-age pension. 4 per cent (2,200) received a disability pension and 8 per cent (4,800) a survivors' pension. Three fifths of the pension recipients who reside abroad were women.

When reviewed by pension system, 24,000 (43%) pension recipients residing abroad received an earnings-related pension only while 22,000 (38%) received a national pension only, and 11,000 (19%) received a pension from both pension systems.

Nearly two thirds of pension recipients live in Sweden

In 2019, pensions from Finland were paid to over 13 countries with more than 400 pension recipients. Nearly two thirds (35,800) of these pension recipients lived in Sweden. The next highest figures were recorded for Germany (3,300), Estonia (2,600), Spain (2,600) and Australia (1,800).

Great between-country variation in pension sizes

The average total monthly pension paid out from Finland in 2019 was 422 euros. However, there was significant between-country variation in average pension sizes.

Among the countries where there were at least 400 pension recipients, the highest overall monthly pension payments were made to Spain (€1,732). The next highest average monthly pensions were paid to Spain (€1,432).

The lowest average monthly pensions were paid to Sweden (€223). The next lowest monthly pension payments went to pensioners residing in Australia (€300) and Poland (€303).



[Data in statistical database](#)



57,000

**PENSION RECIPIENTS
RESIDED ABROAD**



€422

**AVERAGE MONTHLY
PENSION PAID ABROAD**

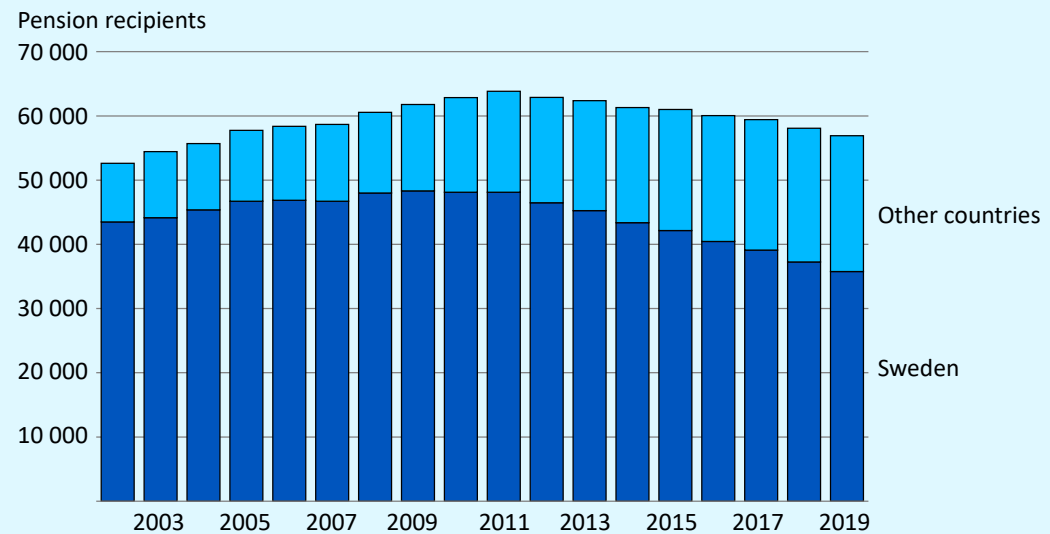
Number of pension recipients residing abroad declined in recent years

The amount of pensions paid abroad from Finland peaked in 2011 when a total of 64,000 pension recipients resided abroad. Since then, the number has decreased slightly each year. The decline is due to the reduced number of pensions paid to Sweden.

In the last five years, the number of pensions paid from Finland to Sweden has been reduced by 7,600. At the same time, the number of pensions paid to other foreign countries has grown by 3,200. For example, the number of pensions paid to Germany, Norway, Poland and Estonia have been on the increase.

The growth has been the strongest in Estonia, to which the number of pensions paid from Finland has more than doubled in the last five years.

Pensions paid abroad from Finland 2002–2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

54%

**OF PENSION RECIPIENTS
RESIDING ABROAD
ARE FINNISH CITIZENS**

”

The amount of pensions paid abroad from Finland peaked in 2011 when a total of 64,000 pension recipients resided abroad.



All new retirees

New retirees are persons who retire on an old-age, disability or farmers' special pension. Persons who retired on an unemployment pension were also included in the figure for those years in which the pension benefit still existed.

Those who have taken out a partial old-age pension are included in the statistics for new retirees in the year in which they retire on a full old-age pension. Those who have taken out a part-time pension are counted as new retirees when they begin to receive an old-age or a disability pension.

The figures for all new retirees in 2019 include persons who reside in Finland and abroad and who have retired that year. In the period from 2009 to 2019, the share of new retirees residing abroad has been 3–5 per cent of all new retirees.



In 2009–2019, the share of new retirees residing abroad has been 3–5 per cent of all new retirees.

New retirees in 2009–2019

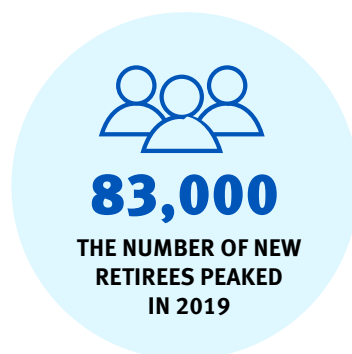
In 2009, the number of new retirees peaked at more than 83,000. An ample half of them retired on an old-age pension, one third on a disability pension and 14 per cent on an unemployment pension. In 2010–2017 an average of 75,000 persons retired each year.

In the last two years, the number of new retirees has declined. In 2018, the new retirees numbered 72,000 persons. In 2019, they numbered 68,000.

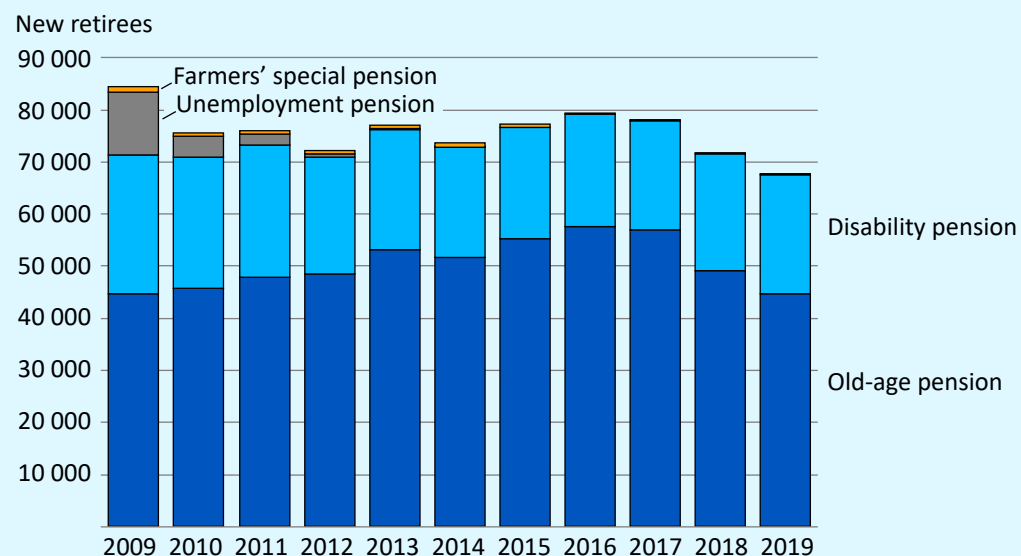
The reduced number of new retirees is a result of the reduced number of new retirees on an old-age pension. The number of new retirees on a disability pension, on the other hand, has been on a mild increase in the last two years.

Number of new retirees under 60 declined

The number of new retirees under 60 have declined in the last decade. In the age group 55–59-year-olds, the number of new retirees each year has dropped from 9,500 to 6,000, and in the age group 45–54 from 7,500 to around 5,000.



New retirees by pension benefit 2009–2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

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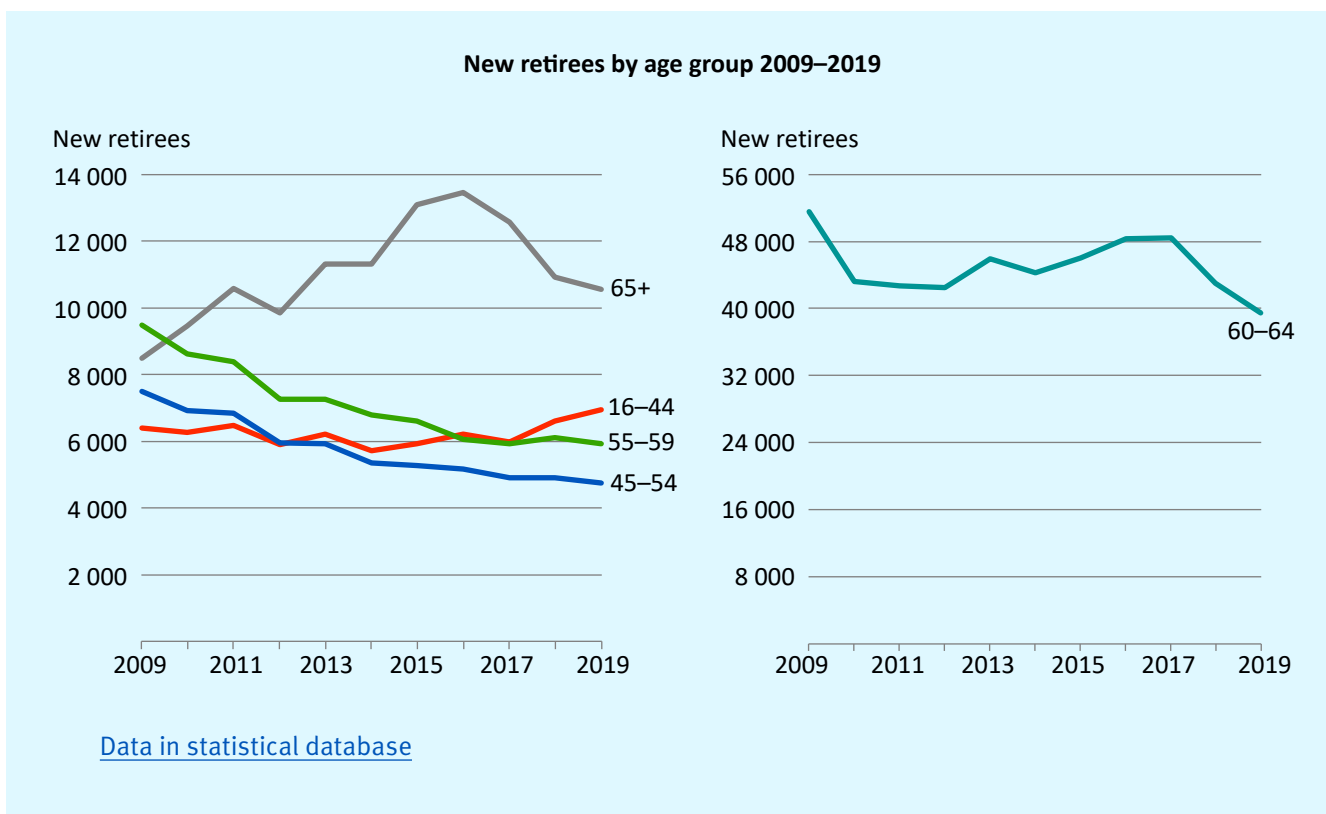
In the last two years, the number of new retirees has declined.

The reduced number of new retirees is a result of the reduced number of new retirees on an old-age pension.

The exception is the youngest age group, the 16–44-year-olds. The number of new retirees in this age group has remained at around 6,000 each year. In the last two years, the amount has even risen slightly and was around 7,000 in 2019.

The clearly largest age group among new retirees is those aged 60–64 years. At the peak in 2009, they numbered 52,000. In 2010, the amount dropped by more than 10,000, after which it grew until the year 2017 (48,000). In the last two years, the number has dropped. In 2019, a total of 39,000 persons aged 60–64 retired.

In the age group 65 and over, the number of new retirees grew from 8,000 in 2009 to 13,000 in 2016, after which it started to decline. In 2019, new retirees aged 65 and over numbered 11,000.



The number of new retirees under 60 has declined in the last decade.



The clearly largest age group among new retirees is those aged 60–64 years.



New retirees resident in Finland

New retirees in 2019

In 2019, a total of 66,000 persons retired in Finland. Of them, 31,000 were men and 34,000 women. Around 43,000 of the new retirees retired on an old-age pension while 23,000 retired on a disability pension and 200 persons on a farmers' special pension.

In 2019, the number of new retirees was down by 3,800 persons compared to in 2018. The reduction occurred mainly among retirees on an old-age pension since the number of new retirees on a disability pension increased slightly from 2018. The number of new retirees on an old-age pension declined by 4,200 while the number of new retirees on a disability pension rose by 500 in 2019.

Rising retirement age explains drop in number of new retirees on old-age pension

The number of new retirees on an old-age pension has declined in 2018 and 2019. The decline is mainly due to the earnings-related pension system's rising old-age retirement age. The decision to raise the retirement age was made in connection with the [2017 pension reform](#).

Retirement on old-age pension most common at age 63

Half (49%) of the new retirees on an old-age pension in 2019 retired at age 63. The share was larger for men (53%) than women (46%). 30 per cent of the men and nearly 40 per cent of the women retired on an old-age pension at age 64 or 65. The share of over-65-year-olds was 7 per cent among both women and men and the share of under-63-year-olds was 8 per cent for women and 10 per cent for men.

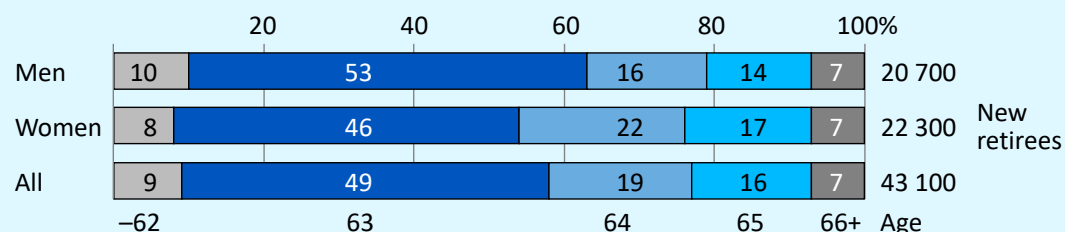
More new female than male retirees on a disability pension

In 2019, around 12,000 women and 11,000 men retired on a disability pension. Women retiring on a disability pension has outnumbered men each year since 2011. Before that, more men than women retired on a disability pension each year. Numerically, slightly more men than women were drawing a disability pension at year-end 2019, but in terms of percentages, the shares were equally high.

Mental disorders and musculoskeletal disorders underly disability for two thirds

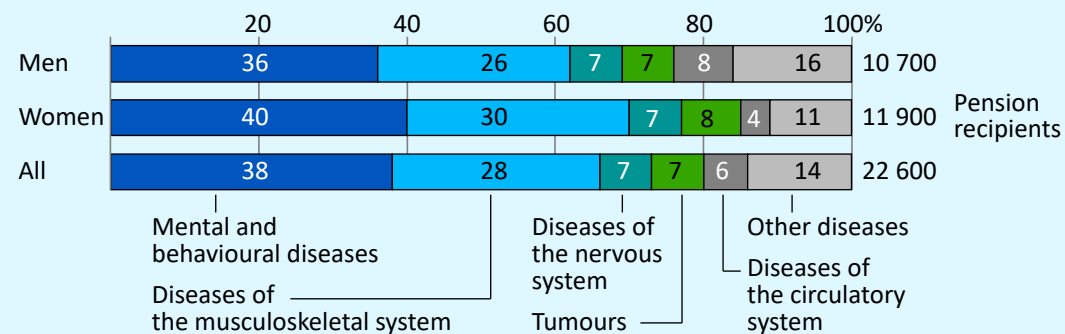
A majority of the new disability pension recipients retired due to mental disorders (38%) or musculoskeletal diseases (28%). These two disease categories made up the underlying reason for two thirds of all new retirees on a disability pension. The share of women (70%) was even higher than that of men (62%).

New retirees on an old-age pension by age and gender in 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

New retirees on a disability pension by disease category and gender in 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)



Half of the new retirees on an old-age pension in 2019 retired at age 63.

38%

**RETIRED ON
A DISABILITY PENSION
DUE TO MENTAL
DISORDERS**

The following most common disease categories for men were diseases of the circulatory organs (8%) and diseases of the nervous system (7%); for women, tumours (8%) and diseases of the nervous system (7%).

Depression and other mental disorders

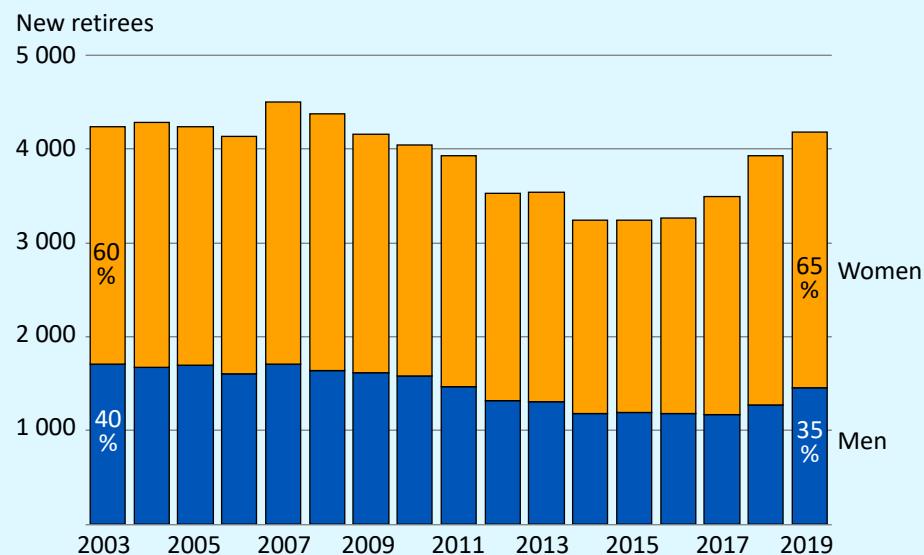
In 2019, a total of 8,600 persons retired on a disability pension due to mental disorders. The most common reason was depression (4,200 persons). Around 800 persons retired on a disability pension because of other mood affective disorders. Other major mental disorder categories included schizophrenia or equivalent (1,200), intellectual disability (800) and neuroses (800).

Number of new retirees due to depression took an upward trend in 2017

The number of new retirees due to depression peaked in 2007 when 4,500 new retirees retired due to depression. After that, the number decreased until 2014.

Between 2014 and 2016, the number remained stable, but in 2017, it took an upward turn. In particular, the number of new female retirees on a disability pension due to depression has increased. In 2019, a total of 2,700 women and 1,500 men retired on a disability pension due to depression.

New retirees on a disability pension due to depression in 2003–2019



4,200

RETIRED
DUE TO
DEPRESSION



Number of new retirees due to depression took an upward trend in 2017.

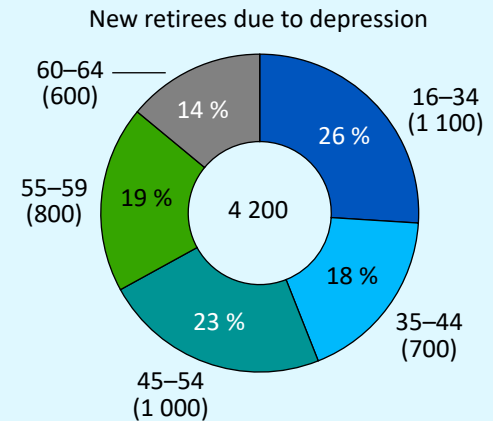
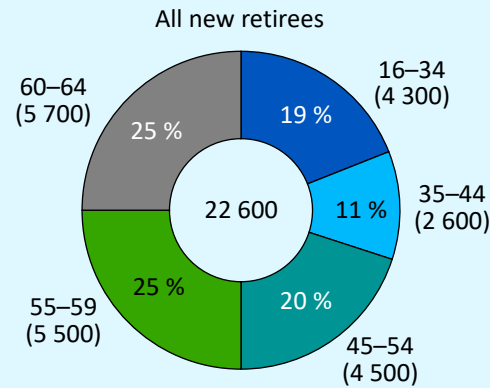
Half of all new disability pension retirees have turned 55

In 2019, half of all new retirees on a disability pension had turned 55 years. The shares of 55–59-year-olds and over-60-year-olds were equally large: 25 per cent. Nearly every fifth (19%) new retiree on a disability pension was under 35 years old.

A quarter of those who retired due to depression were either under 35 years (26%) or between 45 and 54 years (23%). One third of the new retirees on a disability pension due to depression were over the age of 55.



New disability pension retirees in 2019 by age



[Data in statistical database](#)



Half of all new retirees on a disability pension had turned 55 years.



Nearly every fifth (19%) new retiree on a disability pension was under 35 years old.

Pension in one's own right of new old-age and disability pension retirees

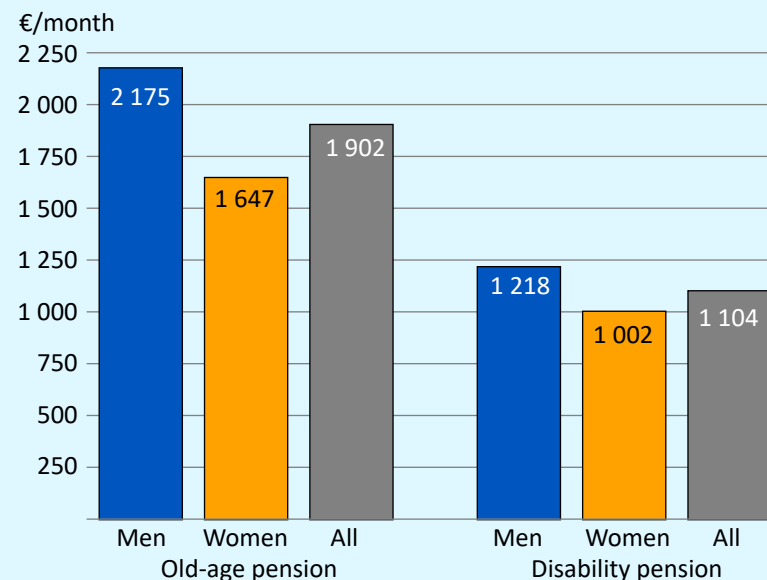
The pension in one's own right of new retirees includes the person's own earnings-related and national pension. It does not include the survivors' pension, guarantee pension, front veterans' supplement or the child increase. The pension in one's own right is a gross pension.

Average old-age pension of women three quarters of men's

The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees in 2019 was 1,902 euros. The average monthly pension of men was 2,175 euros and of women 1,647 euros. That means a gender gap of 530 euros; women's old-age pension amounted to 76 per cent of men's.

The average monthly disability pension in one's own right was 1,104 euros. The gender gap was not as wide for new retirees on a disability pension as it was for new retirees on an old-age pension. The average monthly disability pension for men was 1,218 euros and for women 1,002 euros. That means a gender gap of 215 euros; women's disability pension amounted to 82 per cent of that of men's.

Average pension in one's own right of new retirees on an old-age and disability pension by gender in 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)



The average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees in 2019 was 1,902 euros.



The average monthly disability pension in one's own right was 1,104 euros.

Average old-age pension of new retirees on a pension in one's own right

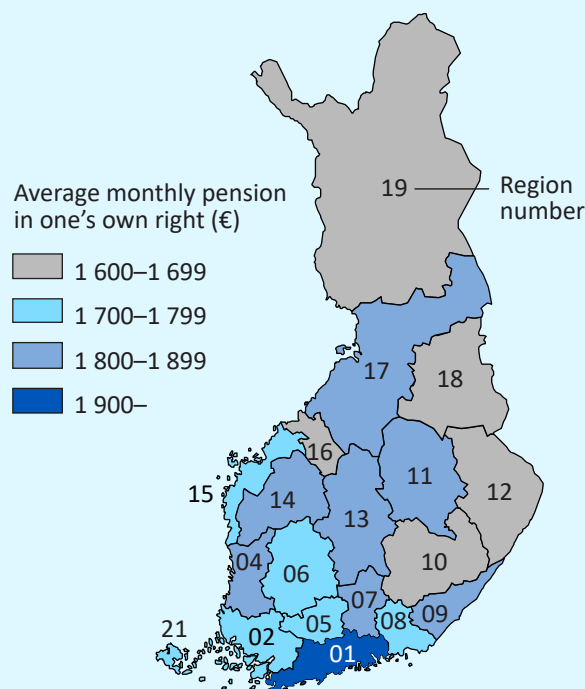
In 2019, the average pension in one's own right for new retirees in Uusimaa was clearly higher than that of persons living in other regions. The average monthly pension in Uusimaa (€2,208) was around 300 euros higher than the average monthly pension for the whole country. Since more than a quarter (28%) of the new retirees on an old-age pension resided in Uusimaa, this significantly affected the average pension amount for the whole country.

In all other regions, the average monthly pension of new retirees on an old-age pension was lower than the average monthly pension for the whole country (€1,902). The average pension received in one's own right was between 1,800 and 1,899 euros in six regions: Åland Islands, Southwest Finland, Ostrobothnia, Pirkanmaa, Kanta-Häme and Kymenlaakso.

In seven regions, the average monthly pension in one's own right of new retirees between 1,700 and 1,799 euros: North Ostrobothnia, North Savo, Päijät-Häme, Satakunta, Central Finland, South Karelia and South Ostrobothnia.

The lowest average monthly pension, from 1,600 to 1,699 euros, was paid out in five regions: Lapland, Kainuu, Central Ostrobothnia, South Savo and North Karelia. In North Karelia, the average monthly old-age pension in one's own right of new retirees in 2019 was the lowest at 1,638 euros.

Average monthly pension received in one's own right in 2019 by region



[Data in statistical database](#)

| Region | Average monthly pension in one's own right (€) | Number of new retirees on an old-age pension |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 01 Uusimaa | 2 208 | 11 900 |
| 02 Southwest Finland | 1 882 | 3 800 |
| 04 Satakunta | 1 751 | 1 800 |
| 05 Kanta-Häme | 1 848 | 1 500 |
| 06 Pirkanmaa | 1 878 | 3 700 |
| 07 Päijät-Häme | 1 758 | 1 700 |
| 08 Kymenlaakso | 1 838 | 1 600 |
| 09 South Karelia | 1 735 | 1 300 |
| 10 South Savo | 1 644 | 1 400 |
| 11 North Savo | 1 795 | 1 900 |
| 12 North Karelia | 1 638 | 1 400 |
| 13 Central Finland | 1 736 | 2 200 |
| 14 South Ostrobothnia | 1 704 | 1 600 |
| 15 Ostrobothnia | 1 881 | 1 300 |
| 16 Central Ostrobothnia | 1 663 | 600 |
| 17 North Ostrobothnia | 1 798 | 2 800 |
| 18 Kainuu | 1 676 | 700 |
| 19 Lapland | 1 679 | 1 600 |
| 21 Åland Islands | 1 897 | 300 |
| Whole country | 1 902 | 43 000 |

€2,208

**HIGHEST AVERAGE
MONTHLY PENSION
IN UUSIMAA**

€1,638

**LOWEST AVERAGE
MONTHLY PENSION
IN NORTH KARELIA**



€32.2 billion

TOTAL PENSION
EXPENDITURE
IN 2019

Pension expenditure

Total pension expenditure

In 2019, earnings-related pensions were paid to the amount of 32.2 billion euros. The total pension expenditure includes all earnings-related pensions (€28.9 billion), Kela pensions (€2.3 billion), special provision pensions (€0.5 billion)¹ and voluntary supplementary pensions (€0.6 billion)² paid out in 2019.

Total pensions made up 45 per cent of all social security expenditure in 2019, or 13 per cent relative to GDP. In 2009, the total pension expenditure made up 42 per cent of all social security expenditure, or 12 per cent relative to GDP. In ten years, the share of the total pension expenditure of all social security has grown by three percentage points, or one percentage point relative to GDP.



Total pension expenditure made up 45 per cent of all social security expenditure in 2019.

¹ Benefits classified as pensions paid under the Occupational Accidents, Injuries and Diseases Act, the Motor Liability Insurance Act, the Military Injuries Act and the Act on Compensation for Military Accidents and Service-Related Illnesses.

² Unregistered supplementary pensions arranged by employers.

Earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure

In 2019, earnings-related and Kela pensions were paid to the amount of 31.2 billion euros. Of the pension expenditure, old-age pensions accounted for 86 per cent (€26.6 billion), disability pensions for 8 per cent (€2.4 billion) and survivors' pensions for 6 per cent (€1.8 billion).

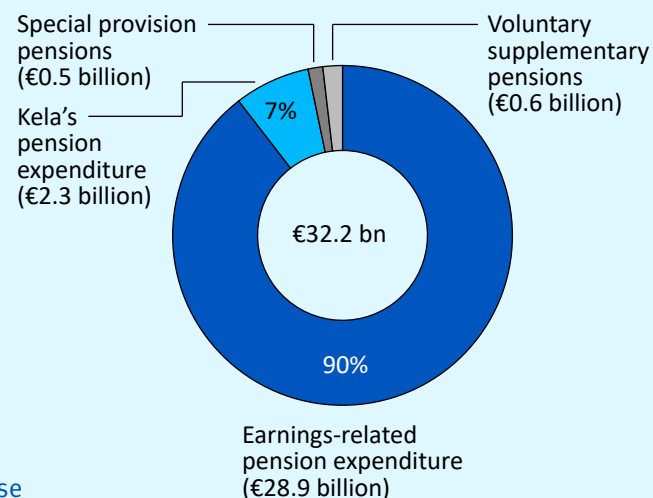
Since the majority of the earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure consisted of paid earnings-related pensions, the shares of the pension expenditure for the different pension benefits were nearly equal to those of the total pension expenditure. The share of old-age pensions was slightly higher (88%) and the share of disability pensions slightly smaller (6%).

As for the expenditure of Kela pensions, the share of old-age pensions was only three fifths and of disability pensions nearly one third (29%). The share of guarantee pensions of Kela's pension expenditure was 10 per cent.



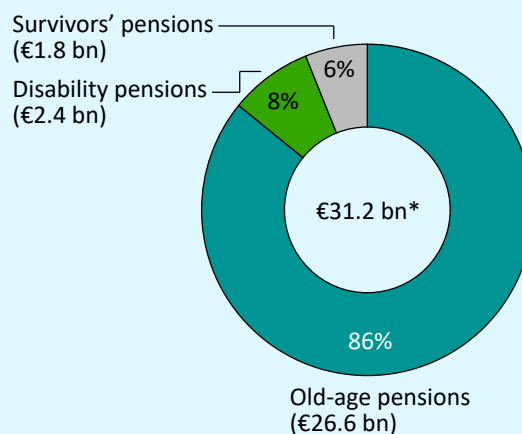
Old-age pensions accounted for 86 per cent (€26.6 billion) of the pension expenditure.

Total pension expenditure in 2019



[Data in statistical database](#)

Earnings-related and Kela pension expenditure in 2019 by pension benefit



*Includes the special pensions for farmers and part-time pensions paid by the earnings-related pension system and guarantee pensions, front veterans' supplements and child increases paid by Kela.

| Benefit | Earnings-related pensions, € million** | Share % | Kela pensions, € million | Share % |
|---|--|------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Old-age pensions | 25 268 | 88 | 1 380 | 59 |
| Disability pensions | 1 775 | 6 | 674 | 29 |
| Farmers' special pensions | 46 | 0 | . | . |
| Part-time pensions | 18 | 0 | . | . |
| Survivors' pensions | 1 734 | 6 | 25 | 1 |
| Guarantee pensions | . | . | 231 | 10 |
| Front veterans' supplements and child increases | . | . | 14 | 1 |
| Total | 28 842 | 100 | 2 342 | 100 |

**Excluding pensions under former local government and Church pension rules.

[Data in statistical database](#)

STATISTICS FROM THE FINNISH CENTRE FOR PENSIONS

The Finnish Centre for Pensions is a developer, expert and joint service producer of statutory pension provision. The Statistics series includes statistics from various areas of pension provision. The statistics are based on register data of the pension system.



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ELÄKETURVAKESKUS